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FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JULY 1, INFORMATION MINISTER PEYREFITTE SPOKE ABOUT PRIVATE VISIT OF ISRAEL PRIME MINISTER ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. HE SAID THAT CONVERSATIONS WHICH ESHKOL HAD HAD WITH DE GAULLE, POMPIDOU AND COUVE DE MURVILLE HAD GENERAL AND NON-OFFICIAL CHARACTER WITHOUT AGENDA, BUT THEY HAD PERMITTED REVIEW OF PROBLEMS IN NEAR EAST AREA. PEYREFITTE ADDED: "IT IS CERTAIN THAT FRANCE, AFTER A PERIOD OF DIFFICULT RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD AT THE TIME OF THE ALGERIAN AFFAIR, TODAY MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE WHOLE OF THE ARAB WORLD. IN OUR VIEW, THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY THAT THE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL MUST UNDERGO AN ECLIPSE. ON THE CONTRARY, WE CONSIDER THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH WE CAN MAINTAIN WITH ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE ANTAGONISTS ARE OF A NATURE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND OF THE STATUS QUO, WHICH REMAINS OUR OBJECTIVE IN THE NEAR EAST, AS IT IS MOREOVER THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OTHER WESTERN POWERS." BOHLEN
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY S. Duncan-Pitt DATE 2/1/84

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